**Remarks**

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment After Final Action be admitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicant submits that this Amendment presents claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Furthermore, applicant believes that consideration of this Amendment could lead to favorable action that would remove one or more issues for appeal.

Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-18 are now presented for examination.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogaki, U.S. Patent No. 6,771,383 ("Ogaki") in view of Douglin, U.S. Patent No. 6,619,695 ("Douglin") and further in view of Hernandez, U.S. Patent No. 6,650,428 ("Hernandez). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Ogaki in view of Douglin and Hernandez.

Ogaki discloses a mechanism adapted to create multi-page data consisting of image data of a plurality of pages that constitute one document, and to manage the multi-page data in the same stage as single-page data that consists of image data of each page belonging to the document. As a result, an image processing system is realized which can make use of both a single-page file suitable for management or updating of image data performed in units of one page, and a multi-page file suitable for processing of image data performed in units of one document. See Ogaki at Abstract.

Douglin discloses a telecopier cover sheet comprising transparent membrane for legible marking thereon and at least one oppositely disposed membrane section

assembled thereagainst and adapted for supporting a document therebetween. The transparent cover sheet allows a person sending the document by telecopier to create a writing that appears thereagainst in the telecopied mode and yet is subsequently erasable. The telecopy document is retained within the oppositely disposed membranes comprising the assembly to therein facilitate the handling and telecopying thereof. See Douglin at Abstract.

Hernandez discloses a method and apparatus using a duplex printer to print indicia on the back side of a printed page to provide privacy for confidential information appearing on the front side and/or indicia to indicate that information which previously appeared on the back side of a printed sheet is not relevant to the information appearing on the front side of the printed sheet. See Hernandez at Abstract.

Claim 1 of the present application recites:

> A method for processing a separator page used for separating print jobs being output from a printer system, said method comprising:
> receiving an input separator page for use in identifying a second print job;
> determining if said input separator page contains first print job information indicating use of the input separator page as a first print job page by optically identifying a first set of end markers on the input separator page;
> obscuring said first print job information and the first set of end markers said first print job information is determined to be present on said input separator page; and
> printing second print job information on a machine-readable region of said input separator page between a second set of end markers thereby providing a second print job separator page.

Applicant submits that Ogaki, Douglin and Hernandez each fail to disclose or

suggest such a process of determining if an input separator page contains first print job

information by optically identifying a first set of end markers on an input separator page.

Hernandez discloses identifying privacy zones within an original document and mapping

the zones to a reverse side of a sheet, creating a mirror image of the zones on the reverse

side of the sheet. See Hernandez at col. 3, ll. 20-25. However, there is no disclosure or

suggestion in Hernandez of ***optically*** *identifying a first set of end markers on the input*

*separator page* to determine if an input separator page contains first print job

information.

Because Ogaki, Douglin and Hernandez each fail to disclose or suggest a process

of determining if an input separator page contains first print job information indicating

use of the input separator page as a first print job page by optically identifying a first set

of end markers on the input separator page, any combination of Ogaki, Douglin and

Hernandez would also fail to disclose or suggest such a process. As a result, claim 1 and

its dependent claims are patentable over Ogaki in view of Douglin and Hernandez.

Independent claims 7 and 13 include limitations similar to those recited in claim

1. Thus, claims 7 and 13, and their respective dependent claims are also patentable over

Ogaki in view of Douglin and Hernandez for reasons similar to those discussed above

with respect to claim 1.

Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Ogaki in view of Douglin and Hernandez and further in view of Mei,

U.S. Patent No. 6,236,831 ("Mei"). Applicant submits that the present claims are

patentable over Ogaki in view of Douglin, Hernandez and Mei since none of the

references disclose or suggest a process of determining if an input separator page

contains first print job information indicating use of the input separator page as a first

print job page by optically identifying a first set of end markers on the input separator

page.

Applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are

in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the rejections be

withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there

remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 50-3669.


Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP


Date: __6/11/09_____      _____

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